

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

THE TWO GIANTS

AT

GUILDHALL,

HUMBLY ADDRESSED TO

JOHN WILKES, Esq;

TO WHICH IS ADDED, A

Verification of two of Mr. W—'s Election Pieces.

The Oracle for Wilkes declares, &c.

L O N D O N:

Printed for STAPLES STEARE, No. 93, in Fleet-street.

MDCCLXVIII.

(Price One Shilling.)

I have perused the Copy of A Dialogue, &c.
printed for *Staples Steare*, at No. 93, in
Fleet-street, London: And do hereby certify the
same to be genuine.

London April 12.
1768.

J. SACHEVERALL.



T O

JOHN WILKES, Esq;

KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE ELECT,

F O R

THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

S I R,

THE Importunity with which I was pressed to the Publication of the following Dialogue was not so great a Motive thereto, as the happy Opportunity of addressing the HERO of England, and *Champion* of *Liberty* of our Days. An Inhabitant of CORSICA could not be more felicitated by so plausible an Occasion of throwing a Lucubration or Pamphlet at the Feet of PAOLI.

The following Pages contain a remarkable Dialogue between the two Giants who guard the Avenue into the Court Rooms of *Our* Guild Hall.

And seeing the Suffrage of these eminent Personages is in your Favour, the putting the Premises under your Sanction and Protection was proper, natural—nay it was necessary.

G O O

Gog and Magog, Sir, are without doubt the greatest Men of our Times ; and unless some Patagonians arrive to eclipse their Magnitude, they will maintain their Dignity before our Posterity.

Greatness, I must acknowledge, is a Term of equivocal Signification ; because some great Men have descended to little Actions ; but Gog and Magog never.

I have bestowed the more Pains in revising the following Interlocution of these exalted Characters ; because whatever comes from them, falling from so great a Height, is expected to make an adequate Impression ; and because such Impression, Sir, is in your Favour.

As you have made your Calling and Election sure, for the County of Middlesex, I cannot by the present Publication be accused of any Intention to influence the Voters, either in your Favour, or to the Prejudice of your Competitors : Perhaps I may excite the Glow of Self-approbation in the Majority of the Middlesex Freeholders ; and the Pangs of Contrition in the Majority of the London Livery : For neither of which Effects I presume I shall be blamed.

I do imagine, Sir, that their Honours, Gog and Magog, are the only two great Men on our Stage of life, who are absolutely and *bona fide* impartial, uncorrupted and independant ; unbiass'd and uninfluenced, either by the Places, Pensions, and other Emoluments of Courts ; or the Blandishments of Popularity.*

For the two Personages just mentioned, possessing the most exalted Stations in the City, aim at no advancement ; they have no envious Rivals desirous of supplanting them : And hence, being equally free from Ambition or Meanness, are equally deaf to the Bullies of Privilege and Sycophants of Prerogative.

I have just let slip that Popularity is more bewitching, fascinating, pleasing, or agreeable, even than Court Emoluments. I must then compare this Circumstance to several others you are well acquainted with, which produce even extacy in the Conflict, but languor in the Accomplishment.

I have heard of a Grecian Senator, who, being applauded by the Populace with Acclamations as he passed the Streets, turned about to a Philosopher who was in his Train, and said, " I am afraid I have been guilty of some indiscreet Action, from the Applause of the Mob, who never judge wisely."

If the English Mob was like the Grecian, their Applause were a Reproach to you or any Patriot. But our Mob, by means of the Press, take Instructions from the Gentlemen who want to raise them, and are always right.

* Except my Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, and Mr. Wilkes.

As to the genuineness of the following Colloquy. When my Friend and intimate Acquaintance Jack Sacheverall, a Stoker at the White-Friars Glas-house, came to me on Tuesday Morning, the 22d of March, 1768, and reported he had (being very drunk) been locked in Guild Hall all night, and had heard a Dialogue between the Giants. I thought proper to give him his way without much Interruption.

I could not help observing he looked something wild and drowsy; I desired Nanny, my Wife, to give Jack some Baum Tea. I took him into the Temple and made him measure King's Bench Walks three or four times; I then took him to *Dalmaboy's*, had him copiously bled, and persuaded him to go to bed; he slept as I thought, finely for about six Hours; but to my utter Astonishment, when he awaked he was in the same Story concerning the Guild Hall Affair.

I then supposed Jack might have had a Dream upon the Subject; but he positively insisted on his being as much awake, during the Affair in the Hall, as at the identical Moment of my conversing with him, &c. and equally compos mentis at both Seasons; nay, he even urged me to cross examine him upon any thing he had delivered before he slept, or since; was quite provoked at my infidelity, as he called it, and I believe would have really gone mad, if I had not promised to be his Amanuensis and Publisher in the Affair.

Jack is about forty Years of Age, he has always been a Mobber, goes to all Executions and Public Meetings; he imagines himself Tory, or high Church Man; and he thinks, Sir, yours is a Tory or High Church Cause. I have not thought proper to unsettle him in that Point: Because he is absolutely Staunch for Wilkes and Liberty: He never separates the Ideas; he would not give a Farthing for Wilkes without Liberty, nor half a Farthing for Liberty without Wilkes.

I just mentioned to him what Mr. *Harley* said on the Hustings about *Liberty regulated by Law*. My Eye! says Jack, but the *Mare* made a *Bull*, for *limited Liberty* is *unlimited nonsense*. Jack has, like some of his Superiors, indulged his Liberty at the Expence of his Property. His great Love for Liberty has (since the first Mention of your Candidateship) compelled poor Jack to wear the same Shirt for three Weeks. I have known him formerly take the Liberty to run in debt; and then run away from his Creditors. Liberty both in Practice and Speculation has been his Hobby-horse for ever.

I am not unaware, Sir, that even after this candid Account of Jack and his Dialogue at Guild Hall. Some sceptical People, may still imagine the whole to be only
a Reverie

a Reverie of a Wilkyfied mad-brained Fellow. Now, supposing I give such Infidels their own Way, (as I did Jack his) it will be no Objection to the Merits of the following Matter, but rather the contrary. For do not you, Sir, and the more sensible Part of the World know ; that the most sublime Sentiments and Sentences have proceeded from Persons in an insane Predicament. These most eminent endowments of *Physic* and *Divination*, Prophecy or Conjuring, are in some Countries expected only to reside in Maniacks, Lunaticks, and Persons of irregular Imaginations ; i. e. in such Persons who either never possessed the common rational Faculties, or in whom they were *superfeded* by Intuition or extraordinary Gifts.

That the Case has been the same even in this Country, and in our Times respecting *Divinity* ; there are hundreds of Instances extant. But not to take an ipse dixit for a Matter of such Importance. Let any reasonable Man attend a Time or two at *Tottenham Road*, *St. Dunstan's* Lecture on Thursday or Sunday Evening, or the *Lunatic Side* of Moorfields, and he will see how little Occasion there is for human Wisdom or common Sense, in order to be most eminent *Divines*, or at least how *studiously* the popular Preachers at those Places avoid such Things.

And if rambling Incoherence, Bombast and Inconsistency in Speech, and contradictory Tendency of Actions, be any Sign of Insanity or of Inspiraton, has it not appeared in certain political Characters within our Memory, as much as ever it did in Physical, Conjuring, or Theological ones. And has not the Man who displayed most of this Want of Coherence and Consistency of Character, Ideas, Measures and Behaviour, been reckoned the most consummate Politician.

Besides, to evince that genuine Politicks and genuine Madnes are perfectly homogenous in other People as well as my Friend Sacheverall. Let the lighted Candles—the broken Windows, &c. be adverted to, as well as the mystic Scrolls of Chalk on every House and Hackney Coach in the City.

Your Mysticks, Maniacs, &c. in all the Sciences I have mentioned, feel all of them a profound Veneration for certain Numbers or Figures in the Numeration Table ; Number 7 has a wonderful occult Capacity with some, Number 9 with others, Number 5 and 3, &c. with other Philosophers, and no Number 45, or 4 and 5 united, with the mystic Politicians.

So upon the whole of this Matter, since none of the sublime Sciences I have mentioned can be pushed to their desired Extremity by the use of common Sense. It is no Objection to the political Merits of my Friend Jack, if he was a little touched in the Brain, which indeed I take to be the Case.

But

But as I am now engaged in a Dedication it may be expected I should, like other Dedicators, employ a Page or two in Amplification of the Merits, Accomplishments, and extraordinary Virtues of my Patron. But for this, there is no Manner of Occasion; Mr. Wilkes's Name alone includes in it more than ten Pages of dedicatory Panegyrick, as his Character is absolutely beyond the Reach of any Praise whatsoever.

Though the present Production, is certainly much in your Favour, it was not published with any view of augmenting your Popularity; but rather for the Conviction of some speculative Persons, who are so very unhappy as not to discern the Legality, Decency, Propriety, or Decorum of your late Proceedings at London and Brentford. I am,

S I R,

With vast Admiration, Yours,

The EDITOR.

Mr. Sacheverall says the Giants had been in confab for some time before he could well distinguish whence the voices issued; that he heard a good deal about Parties, Factions, and Oppositions—about domineering over a late King; and keeping up Jealousies and Animosities between him and several good Subjects—about defiling and disgracing an Opposition with *national Reflections, Oatmeal, Brimstone,* and *Bawdry*, till all *honest* and *modest* Men were ashamed of the *Party*. That the Struggles of one Party at present, was a Coalition or a Share in Administration; and the other for absolute *Monopoly*. That the People were never more mistaken as to their Interests, &c. &c. But he (Sacheverall) says, as soon as the Name of Wilkes was mentioned, he imagines he scarce lost a Word, or Sentiment at least, to the End of the Conference.

T H E
D I A L O G U E, &c.

G O G.

I Suppose there does not now exist even a possibility of Mr. Wilkes being chosen; or, as the Gamesters say, 'tis not in the Dice to save him.

M A G O G.

As to his coming in for Member now, there is no possibility: but then he has considerable Success to boast of in other Matters: he has made the Livery a stalking Horse, to catch other Game; and upon their Backs has overhauled his private Affairs.

G O G.

Why truly brother Magog, considering the variety of Affairs Mr. W—— had to manage, he could not well expect to accomplish 'em all in one Place. If he gets his Difficulties somewhat alleviated at London, he may get a Seat at some other Time and Place.

M A G O G.

And yet, methinks, 'tis pity he does not serve in Parliament the People who have so essentially served him; or rather, 'tis pity the Honourable City of London have not the Honour of being represented by a Person whose indigence they relieved.

G O G.

Why so 'tis, and yet considering his other unfortunate Disqualifications, 'tis not much wonder so reputable a Body as the Livery, should be somewhat shy as to chusing him.

B

MAGOG.

M A G O G.

And yet, notwithstanding he had more actual Disqualifications about him than any man ever canvassed with all. I believe, if the Livery had not been pre-engaged, he would have had a tolerable Chance of coming in. For in this populous City, the very Oddity or Miscellaneousness of his Character, would have given him Advantages over a Character more uniform.

G O G.

You seem to imagine by his becoming so many Things to so many Men; the Combination of these would have produced an adequate Number to make him one of the Four.

M A G O G.

I do imagine so; and his very Disqualifications would have been his Advantage. I'll tell you how; Mr. Wilkes's mere Necessities (which, though a Reason against his putting up; yet when he did declare) would induce many sober, serious, good-natured Souls, to give him an odd Vote, though they would deny him a Shilling: An odd Vote among others, would do them no harm, and help to put him in Fortune's way.

G O G.

Hey day! what would they avowedly vote for a Man who must get a Place to support him, and make his Election the way to patch up his Affairs? Would they chuse a Man whom they would expect to attend a Prime Minister's Levee, like a Statute Hall, and put himself down as a Servant of all Work?—Would they professedly make a *Chatham* of him?

M A G O G.

Softly my dear Brother Gog: there are many who would give him their voices as a *Ticket* to the *Court Lottery*, rather than part with Money to render him any ways Independent. But I imagine the several Blotches about him will prevent his gaining a Patrician Escutcheon.—No, no, no, he will never be like *Chatbam*, *transfigured*, or translated into the *Upper Regions*.

G O G.

Well, but what other Reasons have you that Mr. W—— might have succeeded by a Concourse of anamalous Voters.

M A G O G.

There are certainly among the Livery a considerable Number who, like the Women, would prefer a rakeish, profligate Suitor to a more serious one:—All your Bucks and jolly Fellows would certainly.

M A G O G.

G O G.

No, no: though they may be a little addicted to Extravagance and Dissipation: they would not avowedly countenance such loose Dispositions by voting for a Person of the same Cast, and for that Reason.

M A G O G.

No: they would not professedly do so, but they would, like your modest Coquets, even grant the charming Devil *one Favour*, provided he would ask no more; and reserve the Rest of their Votes for the Father of the City, or wherever Decency or Duty required 'em.

G O G.

Well, you have assigned over to Mr. W—— casual Votes from the Simpletons and the Rakes, who certainly are no small Number in all great Corporations. Who else do you imagine would help up his incongruous Voters into a Sum.

M A G O G.

Why to these I would add all those whose Life, Character, and Behaviour set 'em at variance with all Laws, Governments and social Ties. These would adore him for his generous disregard to the Laws of his Country, and they would to a Man give him Plumpers.

G O G.

And how many do you calculate he would have had a saving Number among all these?

M A G O G.

Of the first Class, or those who have near Affinity to them; I suppose 1500; of the Rest and their Proximates, 1000; and of the latter Kind about 500; in all 3000, which would have served his Purpose exceeding well.

G O G.

And yet I am afraid he will hardly reach one Thousand upon the Whole. Poor Wilkes, 'tis pity you did not come a little sooner.

M A G O G.

Nay, you shou'd rather pity the poor City, who are deprived of having him. For as doubtless the Countenance he has now received will be a Recommendation to him. He will get in some where and shine away like burnished Brass, when the Metropolis ought to have enjoyed so brilliant and conspicuous a Member.

G O G.

It seems to me, however, that whoever has the Honour of choosing Mr. W——, must also have the Benefit of supporting him as a Member.

B 2

MAGOG.

M A G O G.

That is another Reason why the City should have had him; as it would have put them into the ancient honourable Circumstance of maintaining their Representative; and so preserved his Independance.

I have been thinking, Brother Gog, even since we began this Discourse; that Mr. Wilkes is, or would be certainly, the safest Member of all the four Candidates. They are all moneyed Men, Dealers, &c. Now how can we expect Men to spend their own Money without some View of Reimbursement. Whereas if we send a poor Man and pay him, he may mind the Business of his Delegates—while those who are out of Pocket will be apt to mind their own.

G O G:

'Tis impossible to avoid the Weight of your last Argument. And but for the Odium of his Outlawry. Mr. W—, was certainly the very Thing for the City of London.

M A G O G.

Brother Gog; I believe the Outlawry itself may be demonstrated to be even an Advantage.

G O G.

Well, but I suppose it will cease on court, upon his Appearance at Easter Term to take Judgment.

M A G O G.

I'm afraid it will, and am sorry he gave Notice of Appearance:—If I can guess from what I collect from the People underneath, the Government would shew more Prudence in leaving him at large than interrupting him: And then his Outlaw remaining, and he enjoying Liberty by dint of popular Privilege. He would be liable to no Suit, Prosecution, or Censure whatsoever. He might set the Black Rod at defiance: And thus a City Member, be the freest Member in the whole House.

G O G.

Bravo, Brother Magog, Wilkes and Liberty for ever, huzza! and I hope some Town or Country will chuse him, if not for what he may do, yet for the great Things he has done: Has he not made every House a Castle, safe from General Warrants?

M A G O G.

No, no, Brother Gog; I don't see that at all, at all: he only revenged his own Cause upon certain Secretaries of State, by means of a very good Friend, the late
Great

Great Commoner's Great Chief Justice of Common Pleas (and now the Great Lord Privy Seal's Great Lord Chancellor.) But what was then done in Favour of Wilkes is by no means a Security that other Secretaries shall not use other People in the usual Way: This is only one Precedent against a Hundred, and no Law has been made to regulate these Things.

G O G.

Why, as you observe, that was rather a personal Affair among the Parties than otherwise. Yet the very Mention of it in the Commons has served to cast an eternal Odium upon General Warrants.

M A G O G.

Not an eternal but a temporary one Brother: It has indeed secured to any Person for the present, the privilege of writing as much Treason and Blasphemy as he pleases, without Apprehension of Secretaries. But then the Cause taking a wrong turn in the other Court, has precluded the printing of (unless in your own House) or which is as bad, the Publication of such Writings. And that is some Discouragement to such Geniusses as Mr. W——. What pity the Cause of Re-publication of 45, was not tried in the other Court?

G O G.

Why I thought indeed Mr. Wilkes began at the wrong End of the Chapter, and read backwards. He should first of all have procured an Expungation of the Term Libel, from the Statute Books, or an Abrogation of all Statutes relating thereto; and then all Power and Business of Secretaries had been superseded.

M A G O G.

True, Brother Gog, that had been the shortest Way with Statutes and Secretaries too: But if he had found as able Councillors and Expounders of the Term Libel, in this Cause, as he had for the Words Peace and Privilege in the other, it had done full as well:—The Word had been annihilated.

G O G.

Why to be sure tho' one Verdict restrained the Liberty of the Press; the Stigma upon Warrants has let loose the Pen; but neither Religion or Politics have much to hope or fear from that, without printing.

M A G O G.

As to Religion; if they had let Wilkes alone, he would have done it more Service in the Negative way of Argumentation, than ten Bishops in the Positive way.

G O G.

G O G.

To be sure W—— has shewn himself a Lover of Liberty by Words and Actions: But I own I do not see how Religion is any way obliged to him.

M A G O G.

Greatly, greatly, I assure you: you must know it is a common Place Argument with the Orthodox Divines; that Sceptics, Deists and Infidels give into those Opinions, purely to countenance their licentious Practices: this is as constantly denied by the other Party. Now Wilkes has exhibited too glaring an Instance of Libertinism in Faith and Practice, not to give great Advantage to the above Kind of Logical Argument. To shew W——s's supposed Writings and Character, is to shock the serious Infidels; and is used as a Preservative to the unstable and wavering; and thus he has served the Cause of Religion.

G O G.

I own there is some Propriety in your Observation, and if there is any Truth in the common saying, that the Value of a Blessing is best known by the Loss of it (as a Sick Man values Health more than if he never had sickened) Mr. Wilkes is the most proper Person I have heard of to preserve the Liberty, Property, and Religion of his Neighbours; for being supposed to have lost all three sometime ago, he must now be more sensible of their Value than such Gentlemen as have never endured such Loss.

M A G O G.

Right, Brother Gog; and I own I could wish to see him in Possession of another Estate, another Religion; and if it would not diminish his Courage restored to his legal Liberty.

G O G.

Aye, if it would not endanger his Spirit and Courage. But I take Friend W—— to be one of those Geniusses that can only shine in Opposition: He is a Man of War; of no use in peaceable Times.

M A G O G.

Of no Use!—yes, he is of some Use—We exercise our Train Bands every Year, to keep them in Order, against an Emergency; the King does so by his Troops. And Wilkes does only the same by the Liberty Boys of his Country. But the English are naturally sluggish. If he were to tell them he only wanted to see them exhibit a little, they would not stir: So he calls out, Fire and Danger, to bring to Exercise. 'Tis necessary such a volatile Spirit should have some Employment.

G O G.

G O G.

But 'tis possible to carry that Joke too far, and the People seeing much ado about nothing but Wilkes himself; may take Offence at being duped, and not be disposed to exert themselves upon a real Occasion. Like the Boy who cried out Wolf, till nobody minded him.

M A G O G.

All Jokes are good as long as they pass—The Patriots may have passed them full as often as was decent; but you see the Cullibility of the Rabble is not yet cured or sated. But there is no Manner of Danger of any other Mischief, than this innocent Imposture at present. Whenever any Peril does threaten the English Constitution, you will see the Cause espoused, and Defence undertaken by other guise Persons than these. Your genuine Patriots would not so much as admit a Wilkes into their Party.

G O G.

Why indeed, hitherto all these high-flown Pretensions have come to nothing. And as great Men as Wilkes have shewn by their Conduct that their own Emolument has been their Inducements. If Mr. Wilkes renders any essential Service to the People he will be the first of these blazing Stars that have done so for a considerable Time. If he submits to an Extinguisher; he ought to be the last Person the People of this Age at least should pay any Regard to.

G O G.

Should pay any Regard to—Lord bless us two; but a Lapse of 3 or 4 Years after they have been evidently duped, will make them as eager after a fresh Imposture as ever—they are very forgetful, or very charitable and forgiving.

G O G.

Surely 'tis very surprising. If these Impostures, Saviours, or pretended Deliverers, were to arise two or three Times in a Century it were no extraordinary Matter. But that they should set up Pretensions every 5 or 6 Years; shews their Impudence to be as great as the Credulity of Populace: But as the Generality of the English are allowed a sensible People, it is perfectly amazing such Things are tolerated or suffered.

M A G O G.

Not at all amazing: For notwithstanding their Sensibility, &c. you mentioned; nothing is more notorious than that their Climate, their Insular Situation, and Manner of living renders them rather a gloomy hypocondriac People, which is often observed by all their own Doctors and Philosophers, as well as Foreign ones.

G O G.

G O G.

Well, but it is also observed, that such State of Blood and Juices, is rather favourable to mental Abilities, and renders them more sedate, pensive and cogitative; and I should think wiser than their more frothy Neighbours the French.

M A G O G.

So it does: your Observation is right enough. But this hyppish Disposition, which is natural, affects 'em more or less in all their greatest concerns; and of this they have Abundance of Quacks who take Advantage. Nothing is more easy than to make 'em believe their Bodies, their Souls, or the national Constitution are disordered, and in a dangerous State. When once persuaded of that, the next Step to take some Nostrum, Panacea, or pretended Specific, that shall work a Kind of miraculous, or instantaneous Cure.

G O G.

And so you seem to think Mr. W—— is a Kind of Quack in Politics; like Whitfield in Spirituals, or H—— in Medicals; or others, who having no great Chance to rise in an orderly Way, persuade poor People out of their Health and Senses, that they may have the Job of setting 'em to rights.

M A G O G.

I do really imagine Mr. W——s to be like other Quacks; and presuming upon the like Terror and Impatience of the vulgar in Politics, as his Brother Quacks do in Religion and Medicine; sets himself up (after persuading 'em of their Danger) for a very Nostrum Nostrorum, is himself both Doctor and Bolus; the Mercurius Sublimatus for all the Complaints of the Public Constitution; which he is to renovate, vivify, and restore to perfect Health and Soundness: or he may be called the Political Dominicinim, with his Fumigations, Fomentations, and Fermentations, &c. &c.

Qui vult decipi decipiatur.

G O G.

Hark! Brother Magog, the Clock strikes Four, we never discourse after that hour: I suppose the Election will be over to Day; and To-morrow Morning, if agreeable, we will resume the Subject. Good Day to you.

So ended the Dialogue on the 22d of March, 1768. Jack Sachevarell is beholden to a most excellent Memory for the Retention of it: since he owns he sometimes did not well understand 'em, especially Mr. Magog: But he is convinced they are both for Mr. Wilkes at Bottom.

To the

To the Worthy Liverymen of the City of London.

Gentlemen, and Fellow Citizens,

IN Deference to the Opinion of some very respectable Friends, I presume to offer myself a Candidate for my native City of London, at the ensuing general Election. The Approbation you have been pleased on several Occasions to express of my Conduct, induces me to hope that the Address I have now the honour of making to you will not be unfavourably received.

The chief Merit, with you, Gentlemen, I know to be a sacred Love of Liberty, and of those generous Principles, which at first gave, and have since secured to this Nation, the great Charter of Freedom. I will yield to none of my Countrymen in this noble Zeal, which has always characterized Englishmen. I may appeal to my whole Conduct, both in and out of Parliament, for the Demonstration that such Principles are deeply rooted in my Heart, and that I have steadily pursued the Interests of my Country, without Regard to the powerful Enemies I created, or the manifest Dangers in which I must thence necessarily be involved, and that I have fulfilled the Duties of a good Subject.

The two important Questions of public Liberty, respecting *General Warrants* and the *Seizure of Papers*, may perhaps place me among those who have deserved well of Mankind, by an undaunted Firmness, Perseverance, and Probity: These are the Virtues, which your Ancestors never failed to exert in the same national Cause of Liberty, and the World will see renewed in their Descendants on every great Call of Freedom and our Country.

The Nature and Dignity of the trust, Gentlemen, which I now solicit, strike me very forcibly. I feel the warmest Zeal for your Interests, and Affection for your Service. I am conscious how unequal my Abilities are, yet Fidelity and Integrity shall in some Measure compensate that Deficiency, and I will endeavour through Life, to merit the Continuance of your Approbation, the most precious Reward to which I aspire. If I am honoured with so near a Relation to you, it will be my Ambition to be useful, to dedicate myself to your Service, and to discharge with Spirit and Assiduity, the various and important Duties of the distinguished Station in which I may be placed, by the Favour of you, Gentlemen, the Livery of London. I am with the utmost Respect, Gentlemen,

Your most faithful, and obedient humble Servant,

London, Mar. 10, 1768.

JOHN WILKES.

March 10th 1768.

LONDON TO WIT,

To all and ev'ry
Worthy Member of the Livery.

In Deff'rence to th' Opinions able,
Of certain Friends most re-spectable;
Myself to offer I presume,
At the Election next to come;
For this my noble City native
To be a true Repre-sen-tative,
Of me your frequent Approbation
Has mov'd me to this Application.

With you the Merit's known to be
A sacred Love of Liberty,
And of those Principles that have
Secur'd the Charters which they gave.

ZEAL Englishmen Charac-terizes,
In that; there's none above me rises,
To my whole Conduct I appeal,
For *Demonstration* of such zeal;
As well as leaving undisputed,
The Principles within me rooted,
—And if I did not make a rout,
Whether in Parliament or out.

I never did regard the Foes
Who often have against me rose;
Nor any *Dangers* I may say
Because from them I ran away.

Important Questions we had Two,
Which made a Noise awhile ago
(It is the seizing Papers private
And Gen-ral Warrants here I drive at)
These *Questions* were of Liberty,
And they perhaps have placed me
'Mongst those who are so much endear'd
For having firmly persever'd.

Those Virtues which in old Time shone
 I shall exhibit in our own,
 And will remain at home to bawl
 On ev'ry great (or little) call,
 My Lungs are ready when you need 'em
 For City, Country, or for Freedom.

The *Trust* which I do now solicit
 In words and manner so explicit,
 Is, in its dignity and nature ;
 So great, that nothing can be greater ;
 With mighty force I feel it strike me;
 For which, I do not doubt you like me.

My Zeal towards you pray observe is
 Great as my passion for your service ;
 Altho' my parts are reckon'd rare,
Inadequate I own they are;
 Yet I shall with *Fidelity*
 Compensate that *deficiency* ;
 And thro' my life I shall endeavour
 When I have gain'd to keep, your favour.
 To be your servant I aspire
 Witness my Hand

JOHN WILKES, ESQUIRE.

*To the Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County
of Middlesex.*

MOST gratefully sensible of those generous and patriotic Principles which have induced you to elect me your Representative in Parliament, I intreat you to accept of my best Endeavours to express the Joy which inspires me on so interesting, so affecting an Occasion. The personal Regard you have shewn me, indeed, confers on me an Obligation, the due sense of which I too cordially feel to find Words to describe. I cannot, however, forbear congratulating you, as the Most Distinguished of ENGLISHMEN, on the Honourable Proof you have given, that the genuine Spirit of Independency, the true Love of our Country, for which the County of MIDDLESEX has for Ages been so eminently conspicuous, still glow in your Breasts with unremitting Ardor! still shine forth with undiminished Lustre!—Let the Sons of Venality bow the Knee to the Idol of sordid Interest: Let them call their Pusillanimity Prudence, while they ignominiously kiss the Rod of Power, and tamely stoop to the Yoke, which artful Ministers insidiously prepare, and arbitrarily impose. You, Gentlemen, have shewn, that you neither are to be Deceived, nor Enslaved. In proving yourselves Enemies to Ministerial Persecution, the Eyes of the Whole Kingdom, the Whole World, are upon you; as the First and Firmest Defenders of Public Liberty. Happy shall I think myself, if, fired by your Example, the Efforts of my warmest Zeal may be deemed an adequate Return for the Favours you have bestowed on me; but however insufficient my Abilities, my Will to serve you is unbounded as it is unalterable.—Engaged as I have long been in the glorious Cause of FREEDOM, I beg you to consider my past Conduct as an Earnest of the future; and to look on me as a Man whose primary Views will ever regard the Rights and Privileges of his Fellow Countrymen in general; and whose secondary Views shall be attentively fixed on the Dignity, Advantage, and Prosperity of the County of Middlesex. Let me therefore desire of you, Gentlemen, to favour me from Time to Time with such Instructions as may best enable me to accomplish those Ends; resting assured of always finding me devoted to your Service, and that the happiest Moments of my Life will be those in which I am employed in maintaining the Civil and Religious Rights of Englishmen, and in promoting the Interests of my Constituents.

I am, with the truest Respect, Gentlemen,

Your obliged, and faithful humble Servant,

Tuesday, March 29.

JOHN WILKES.

*To the Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County
of Middlesex.*

A Person here behold in me
That's sensible *most gratefully*,
That, maugre ministers despotic
Your *principles so patriotic*,
To day have mov'd you to elect me
(Tho', London did last Week reject me)
In *Parliament to represent you*.
Where I'll endeavour to content you.

I beg you will accept of my
Best attempts t' express the joy
Which I experience respecting
This same Occasion so affecting.

Your great Regards *shewn to my Person*,
Much Obligation me confers on,
Of which a *cordial Sense* I feel
Tho' 'tis too mighty to reveal;
Now for my life I cant forbear
Congrat-ulating of you here,
As being Sirs, of all the English
Those who themselves *do most distinguish*,
Witness the *honourable Proof*
You now have given sure enough
Ye *Middlesexers* do inherit—
A noble *independant Spirit*,
Which in your Breasts with ardor glows.
And renders you conspicuous,
And made you in my recent blustre
Shine forth with *undiminis'd Lustre*.

The Sons of base Venality,
 May still go on to bow the Knee
 Unto the *Idol Int'rest sordid*,
 While you for Freedom are recorded;
 By them *Pusillanimity*,
 Nick-named *Prudence* still may be;
 While they the *Rod of Power* do kiss,
 And never take the Yokes amiss,
 Which ministers insidi-ous
 Do arbitrarily impose:
 You Gentlemen do stoutly shew
 You never will be served so.
 Proving yourselves the Enemies
 Of ministerial things;—The *Eyes*
 Of *England*, nay the *whole World* too
 This Moment all are fixed on you,
 Because of Wilkes and Liberty
 The *firmest Friends* you seem to be.

My happiness will be most ample,
 If when *I'm fir'd by your Example*,
 My zeal, so hot should ever burn
 To make an *adequate return*;
 Or one that shou'd so deemed be
 For *Favours now bestow'd on me*.

But tho' Abilities may fail,
 My zeal or will Sirs never shall;
 Which are as far as I'm ca-pable
Unbounded and unalterable.

Engaged as I long have been,
 In Freedom's Cause (or that of Sin)
 By Conduct past—I beg you will
 Consider what I shall be still;
 And look upon me as a Man
 Whose views—or whose *primary Plan*

Regards my Fellow Countrymen ;
 That is in gen'ral Sirs, and then
 Unto those views I shall annex,
 A special Care of *Middlesex*.

Let me desire you not to grutch
 From time to time to give me such
 Instructions (which to you I'll send)
 As may attain the wish'd for end,
 Resting assured of always finding
 Me your proper Business minding ;
 And that my Time will happiest glide,
 When I shall find myself employed,
 Not Law and Gospel both prophaning,
 But the religious Rights maintaining,
 As well as Civil ones promoting ;
 Of those who have for me been voting.

I am with Gratitude most fervent,
 Kind Sirs, your very humble Servant,

J. WILKES.

I believe there have been Versifications of Prose Pieces undertaken by Way of Ridicule or Burlesque.

But surely nobody will have even the most distant Imagination of that being the here, 'tis impossible—The more frequent Intention (as well as more laudable) is to fix the Sentiments of any Important Production upon the Mind and Memory of the Reader, by an easy familiar Versification.

As Mr. Wilkes's Address to the Livery before the Election; and that to the Middlesex Freeholders after the Poll; are very extraordinary Productions. I have attempted to give them the Advantage above-mentioned; but wish it had been done by an abler Hand, or some Person more accustomed to writing Verses.



